



NOAA National Weather Service
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Definition of a *Fire Weather Watch* and *Red Flag Warning* for Northern Arizona

NWS Flagstaff produces fire weather forecasts, watches and Red Flag warnings for Northern Arizona. NWS Flagstaff also provides fire weather spot forecasts for a specific site for prescribed burns ignited on Federal Lands and for wildfires on Federal Lands or a non-Federal Land prescribed burn that is declared a wildfire.

During fire season, special forecasts are prepared twice a day for users like the US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Arizona State Land to help them determine how to fight wildfires and where potential starts may occur. Some specific items we forecast for include relative humidity changes, temperature changes, drainage and transport winds, haines index and lightning activity.

When significant weather conditions occur along with high to extreme fire danger, special watches and warnings are issued which address the potential for wild fires across Arizona. These watches and warnings are listed below.

Fire Weather Watches/Warnings	Criteria
<u>FIRE WEATHER WATCH</u> FOR WILD FIRE POTENTIAL	<p>When potential exists between 24 and 72 hours of an expected event that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sustained 20 foot winds of 20 mph or greater, or wind gusts of 35 mph or greater.2. Relative humidity of 15 percent or lower3. A fire danger rating of high or greater (as determined by USFS) <p>Note: All three criteria must occur simultaneously for 3 hours during the watch/warning period across any portion of a fire weather zone.</p>
<u>RED FLAG WARNING</u> FOR WILD FIRE POTENTIAL	Any of the above conditions met within 24 hours

For additional information on the Fire Weather Program, please link to our Fire Weather Web page at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/?wfo=fgz>